

The HEAP Act would allow parents to deposit up to \$5,000 per child each year in a college savings account with a maximum allowable deduction of \$15,000 per year. When money is withdrawn from a HEAP account for education purposes, one-tenth of that amount would be included in the gross income of the beneficiary for tax purposes over a 10-year period. The legislation also includes a 10-percent penalty for money withdrawn from a HEAP account for purposes other than paying for higher education.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation provides a HEAP of relief for middle class families who are often not eligible for low-interest student loans and other Government aid. By encouraging these families to save for their children, we help give future generations access to all the advantages of higher education. I urge my colleagues to support the HEAP Act and pay tribute to those who shaped this worthy legislation.

ISRAEL H. MILTON HONORED

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 1995

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, next week Israel H. Milton, the Assistant Dade County Manager responsible for human services programs, will retire from our county government. I want to join with his many friends and admirers throughout our entire community in extending to him our thanks for his outstanding service and our congratulations for a job well done.

Israel Milton is a public servant in the very highest and best sense of the word. He is a veteran of more than three decades hard work and achievement in the area of social services.

Never one to shy away from difficult assignments, Israel Milton began his career in Dade County in 1967 as a social services administrator at the Kendall Children's Home. He also served as director of the Office of Neighborhood Service Centers and director of the Model Cities Program; became director of the Department of Human Resources in 1982; and rose to assistant county manager in 1992.

The talents and judgment he brought to these jobs and the breadth and depth of his experience will be sorely missed; people of his calibre are not easily replaced. He has always been accessible to the people of our community, constantly working to provide quality services and a better life for all our citizens.

Israel Milton is a graduate of Dorsey High School in Miami and Bethune-Cookman College. He received his Master's Degree in social work from Atlanta University.

Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my best wishes to Israel Milton and to his wife, Thelma Milton. Our community thanks you for your service and for the contribution you have made to the lives of so many people.

“PAID VOLUNTEERISM”: AN OXY-MORONIC IDEA

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 1995

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I commend George Will's article in the Saturday, January 28th edition of the Washington Post for your attention:

TWO LIBERAL LOSERS

(George F. Will)

President Clinton's turbid State of the Union address was a metaphor for modern government—sprawling, metastasizing, undisciplined, approaching self-parody. It underscored the fact that his administration now is politically almost harmless, but is aesthetically excruciating.

The address was heavily larded—exactly the right word, that—with semi-conservative words about cutting taxes, spending and regulations. However, regarding two matters Clinton considers crucial—the American Corps “national service” program and the minimum wage—the address was half-baked and half-hearted liberalism.

AmeriCorps, says Clinton, will revive American volunteerism. The approximately 80 million Americans who volunteer their time to religious and civic organizations may wonder who needs reviving and how much it matters whether AmeriCorps eventually produces 100,000 more volunteers. Today 2.9 million of America's 80 million volunteers are ages 18 to 25, the ages of AmeriCorps “volunteers.”

To Americans who use the English language to communicate thoughts rather than parody them, the use of the word “volunteer” in connection with AmeriCorps recruits must seem like the latest redundant evidence that Washington is stark raving mad. To plain-speaking Americans, a volunteer is someone who contributes his or her unpaid labor. Clinton's “volunteers” will be paid a \$7,400 annual stipend, plus \$9,450 worth of college expenses over two years. And this is not all that Clinton's little puddle of government-manufactured “volunteers”—little relative to the 80 million true volunteers who need neither financial incentives from, nor organization by, government—will cost taxpayers.

In addition to the health and childcare entitlements for AmeriCorps members, and AmeriCorps' Washington bureaucracy, money is spent to locate “volunteers” to take AmeriCorps money. The Omaha World-Herald says that AmeriCorps gave Nebraska's state government a \$457,622 grant to recruit 23 AmeriCorps members. That \$19,896.60 per recruit calls into question the effectiveness of the \$1.7 million AmeriCorps paid a Washington PR firm for national advertising.

According to the New Citizenship Project, a conservative advocacy group, of AmeriCorps' first 20,000 “volunteers,” 1,200 are working for agencies of the federal government. The New Citizenship Project warns that AmeriCorps is ripe for politicization, citing a Washington Monthly report that a 1993 pilot project became an exercise in identity politics and political correctness, developing ethnic and homosexual caucuses. And the Los Angeles Times reported that a 1994 pilot project in San Francisco used its “volunteers” to protest “three-strikes-and-you're-out” crime legislation.”

Clinton calls AmeriCorps the achievement “I would say I was most proud of.” No minimum wage increase will be rival for that title.

In 1992 candidate Clinton endorsed increasing the minimum wage. During 1993 and 1994, when he had a congressional majority that would have done it, he did not ask for it, primarily because some sensible Democrats told him it was a dumb idea. Al From, head of the centrist Democratic Leadership Council, which once advertised Clinton as a New Democrat, says of the minimum wage proposal: “It's anachronistic, it's a loser, it's got no bite with the middle class. And it screams old Democrat.”

Now that there is a Congress that Clinton knows will not enact an increase, he calls it urgent. However, during Tuesday night's oration, when he was pitilessly detailed about almost everything, he remained reticent about how much the minimum wage should be increased. Leaving aside the unwisdom of government telling employers what to pay employees, it is generally true that when you increase the cost of something, people buy less of it. There is evidence that is true of labor at the low end of the wage scale.

The first federal minimum wage—25 cents an hour—was enacted in 1938. Since then, the longest time between increases was from 1981 to 1990. During that span, teenage unemployment (teenagers are a third of all minimum wage earners) fell from 23.2 percent to 15.5 percent, and black teenage unemployment fell from 48 percent to 31 percent. Then the forces of compassion struck, raising the minimum wage twice, in 1990 and 1991. In 1992 teenage unemployment went up to 20 percent.

Now, it is problematic establishing causation for any phenomenon as complex and varied as joblessness. And some studies, including one by associates of the current secretary of labor, purport to show that the minimum wage can be increased somewhat without increasing unemployment. However, the question is academic because a former academic—Rep. Dick Armey, the ex-professor of economics who now is majority leader—says he will oppose an increase “with every fiber of my being,” and he will have much company.

But this is of more than academic interest: The minimum wage is now \$4.25 an hour. Clinton is said to be thinking about seeking \$5 an hour. The New Citizenship Project calculates that AmeriCorps “volunteers” earn more than \$7 an hour.

SALUTE TO CHICAGO ATTORNEY AND FORMER ALDERMAN LEON DESPRES, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 87TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 1995

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to salute a gentleman who is a Chicago institution and a lifelong friend of the underdog and of the working Chicagoan. Leon Despres, who turns 87 years young today, played a crucial role in the Chicago City Council during the senior Richard Daley's tenure as mayor of Chicago. This role, that of the loyal and principled opposition, is one that my Democratic colleagues and I are growing to appreciate more and more as we settle into our new roles in the 104th Congress. Unfortunately, I did not have the honor of serving in the Chicago City Council during the 20 years that Mr. Despres served there. However, he served as Parliamentarian of that body under the late, great